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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Psychologie und Verkehrswesen.* By HANS A. MARTENS. (Heft 10 of *Schriften zur Psychologie der Berufseignung und des Wirtschaftslebens.*) Edited by OTTO LIPMANN and WILLIAM STERN, 1919. 14 p.

The author discusses first the general value of psychological principles in the training and selection of traffic personnel, in the certification of professional chauffeurs, and the licensing of private automobilists. He then takes up, in survey fashion, the psychological factors of the signal system. He enumerates the psychological requirements of good signals and states the problems involved in learning and reacting to them and in avoiding accidents and especially collision with pedestrians. His main object is to show that like all other phases of economic life, transportation and traffic need the co-operation of consulting psychological experts in solving all those problems which involve the human element as an important constituent. L. R. G.

*Die Psychische Eignung der Funkentelegraphisten.* By OTTO LIPMANN. (Heft 9 of the *Schriften zur Psychologie der Berufseignung und des Wirtschaftslebens.*) Edited by OTTO LIPMANN and WILLIAM STERN, 1919. 40 p.

The first part of this article deals with the analysis of the mental functions of wireless telegraphers. Both receiving and sending wireless messages require good memory and ability to learn quickly. In sending messages, accuracy, speed, and certainty in movements are essential, but the sender is usually not limited in speed nor exposed to distractions, which two factors make the receiving a much more difficult task. Since the signals to be received and recorded are faint tones from 500 to 1,000 vibrations, the listener must be able to differentiate accurately both pitch and intensive differences; he must have a good memory for pitch in order to identify thereby the stations communicating with him; and he must be able to recognize different rhythms of sound signals and the changes they undergo when their speed is altered. He will be the more efficient the less he needs to translate these sounds into visual or motor terms. Subjective types of receivers who interpret what they hear are less valuable, at least from the militaristic point of view, than the objective type who merely writes down what he hears. The process of recording involves a division of attention between hearing the present sound and simultaneous writing what had just been heard. Finally, the receiver must be able to disregard a large number of distracting and conflicting noises from other stations and confine his attention exclusively to the particular sender with whom he is trying to communicate. These auditory disturbances offer the greatest difficulty to the beginner in wireless telegraphy and prove sometimes too much for him.

In the second part the author describes a complex method of testing beginners in wireless telegraphy for the purpose of determining their fitness for such work. The five letters, k, m, r, s, and v, of the Morse